Falling crop yield in India

5054. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a World Bank report crop yield is falling in India and there is a decline in the investment in this sector ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the details of the package Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) No, World Bank report has claimed that crop yield is falling in India. However, it has been mentioned in "India : 1991 Country Economic Memorandum, Volume II : Agriculture—challenges and opportunities" that gross domestic investment in agriculture remained constant in real terms between 1980 and 1987, while overall gross domestic investment nearly doubled in the same period. Further, according to the report, much of this stagnation is attributable to falling real public investment in agriculture, which declined by 18% in the same period.

(c) The problem of investment in Agriculture is not a problem of total availability of resources but one distribution between current expenditure and capital formation. Since 1980-81, a larger portion of public expenditure went into current expenditure in the form of increased level of subsidies for fertilizer, irrigation, electricity, credit and other agricultural inputs rather than investment. Government is already seized with the task of reducing subsidies and rationalising farm inputs support policies so as to release resources for investment in agriculture specially in irrigation which has high potential to enhance productivity.

Cultivation of Mushrooms

5055. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has achieved a break-through in the cultivation of mushrooms ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the names of the States where the cultivation of mushrooms is being carried on together with the area under cultivation in each State :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the rough estimates the total production was 100 MT in 1970, 1000 MT in 1981, 7000 MT in 1990, 12,000 MT in 1992 and is expected to reach 25000 MT by 1995. The productivity has also increased from 2-3 kg per sq meter (1964-65) to 18—22 kg per sq meter (1988-89).

(c) The major mushroom producing States are UP, HP, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, J & K, Kerala, Maharashtra, M.P., Orissa, West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar and Rajasthan.

Mushrooms are grown indoor and not in the field and thus area under cultivation can not be indicated.

tShare of agriculture in gross domesic product

5056. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product of our country ;

(b) what is the share of agriculture in exports ;

(c) what steps Government would take to make the share of exports at par with the share of agriculture in Gross Domestic Product ; and

(d) by when the gap between the two is expected to be filled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) As per quick estimates of the Central Statistical Orga-